

**OPPRESSION AGAINST THE BLACK**  
**IN JAMES GARTNER'S *GLORY ROAD* MOVIE:**  
**A MARXIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*Glory Road* is an American drama movie directed by James Gartner. It was inspired by a true story, as described by Texas Western's head coach Don Haskins in his autobiography of the same title, a national bestseller released in 2005 by Hyperion Books. The movie was produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and written by Chris Cleveland. The movie released on January 13, 2006. The movie won an ESPY Award for Best Sports Movie in 2006. It was nominated at the 2007 Black Reel Awards for Best Screenplay and Best Song ("People Get Ready" by Alicia Keys and Lyfe Jennings) and for a 2006 Humanitas Prize in the Feature Film category. It makes the movie to be the best movie ever made. Running time of the movie is 106 minutes by using English language. And this movie was distributed by Walt Disney Pictures.

The movie is based on a true story dealing with the events leading to the 1966 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship, in which the late Don Haskins (Josh Lucas), head coach of the Texas Western College (now the University of Texas at El Paso) led a team with an all-black starting lineup, a first in NCAA history. The story began when Don Haskin on duty in the men's dorm Texas Western college in El Paso. This college has a very terribly basket team because it has no financial resources to recruit the most coveted high school athletes. Haskin decides to find the best players in the

country regardless of race to form a team that can compete for a national championship. Haskin recruits some of the young men from places as far away as Indiana, Michigan and New York. In the end, Texas Western Miners team comprised seven black and five white athletes. Haskin is White. Actually rector of the Texas Western College does not agree with Don's decision. Black are minority people who disparage in the era. But Haskin doesn't care about that; he knows they have a great talent in basketball. The important things are talent, ability and speed. Haskin puts his players through a very tough training program to build them to be a single team with a common goal.

Haskins starts games with three black and two white players and, after initial victories against mediocre local teams, quickly discovers that he has to give his black players more free roam on the court. In the next games Miners get a bad treatment from the opposite fans, they throw popcorn and drink, and yell racial epithets toward Miners. But it does not make Miners down. Texas Western Miners win the games again and again. This culminates in threats to his own family, the beating of a player while on the road and ultimately the ravage of his team's motel rooms by racists while they are at an away game. Increasingly frightened and feeling the burden on their shoulders, the team loses its last shown game of the regular season after the black players stop playing with passion. Thus the Texas Western Miners finish the 1965-66 regular season with a 23-1 record, entering the 1966 NCAA tournament ranked third in the nation.

Going on to the NCAA finals played at College Park, Maryland, they face the top-ranked University of Kentucky under legendary coach Adolph Rupp (Jon Voight). Rupp, with a well-organized and better experienced all-white Wildcats squad firmly believes that his opponent stands no chance. On the eve of the decisive game, Haskins calls his whole team into the empty arena, telling them that he intends to start an all-black lineup in the game, and also only using the two other black players in the rotation. The team reacts surprised, but even the best white players accept his decision as the right thing to do.

In the face of seemingly insurmountable odds, Texas Western faces mounting problems with forward and team captain Harry Flournoy (Mehcad Brooks) leaving the game with a foot injury after just a few minutes of play, and their center in foul trouble. In a close game, the Miners narrowly lead at half time, but finally manage to beat Kentucky 72–65 with some impressive steals, defensive stops and a fast-paced game in the second half. The film ends with the players exiting the plane that brought them back to El Paso to the greeting of a raucous crowd.

*Glory Road* receives several responses both positive and negative from the audiences when it was premiered. As Jeff Otto in the Rotten Tomatoes wrote that: “Well-made well-acted and even well-directed.” This response shows that *Glory Road* is one of the best movie that James Gartner ever made. In contrary, there are also several negative response toward this movie, as written by Brian Tallerico of New York Press about this movie,

“Trying to make a sports movie for the entire family is understandable, but it makes a complicated story like *Glory Road* feels more like Disney than reality.” This response shows the inability of Gartner in producing this movie, similar response also written by Michael W. Philips, Jr. “The problem is not that they made the wrong movie, but that the movie they decided to make wasn't very good.”

In the market, *Glory Road* became a box office number-one in the US grossing \$17 million on its opening weekend, yet was only released straight to DVD or just shown on TV in some countries that have no connection to college basketball.

*Glory Road* is a sport movie based on actual events. Additionally "Glory Road" is the name of a street on the University of Texas at El Paso campus near the Sun Bowl which was renamed to commemorate the 1966 NCAA championship. Characters of this movie are Don Haskin and the players on the 1966 team were David Lattin, Bobby Joe Hill, Willie Cager, Willie Worsley, Jerry Armstrong, Orsten Artis, Nevil Shed, Harry Flournoy. And setting of the movie is in El Paso Texas 1965-1966s.

There are at least three interesting sides of the movie. The first is about character and the characterization. Character and characterization are important elements in a movie. James Gartner uses a white-skin basketball coach as one of major characters. Gartner does not use black-skin or a powerful man in this movie. Gartner shows the struggle of a white coach that can change the black life in the era and in the future.

The second is about the cinematography of the movie. The movie is set and shot in the place where the real event happens. Gartner costumizes the setting according to the suitable fashion in the era. It makes the audience feel as if they are in the setting of time.

The third James Gartner's *Glory Road* is the controversial movie. Gartner gathers two different worlds, Black and White. Oppression against the Black is the major case happened in the film. Blacks are minority people who are underestimated by the White. Racism influences all element of black's life. So they try to against it with join the championship. Black wants to show around the world that they also have a talent and ability likes white, and actually they have a same chance in anything.

Considering the explanation above, the writer turns to analyze the movie by using Marxist approach. In this study, the writer encourages herself to give a title **“OPPRESSION AGAINST THE BLACK IN JAMES GARTNER’S GLORY ROAD MOVIE: A MARXIST APPROACH”**

## **B. Literature Review**

The writer has been looking for the literature review in the entire neighborhood universities, such as: UNS, UNDIP, and UGM, but the writer did not find any related subject which is colerated to the writer's research subject. Therefore, the writer tries to find the literary through the website. As the result the writer finds several literary reviews. The first is article entitled *Combat for Equality* by Broaddus: 2006. The article gives a short explanation

about the struggle of the black to gain equality right in sport. Broaddus does not explain the main problem in broadly, so that there are so many interpretation about the main disccusion of the article.

The second literature review entitles "*Discrimination against blacks linked to dehumanization*". It is a journal released by Stanford University: 2008. The journal discusses about how the effort of US government to erase discrimination among the classes in the United States. The journal concludes several problems which the government should be taking care off.

The research will be different from those two literature reviews. The writer will focus on how oppression against the black reflects in James Gartner's *Glory Road*. The writer may refer to those two literature reviews in conducting the research. She uses a Marxist perspective to analyze the movie.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the research background above, the problem of the study is how oppression against the black reflects in James Gartner's *Glory Road*.

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

To make it easy for the writer to conduct the study, she gives limitation of the problem on the oppression against the black players on Texas Western Miners.

## **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme *mise en scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze the movie based on Marxist perspective.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

By analyzing James Gartner's *Glory Road*, there are two benefits that can be gained as follow:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study in James Gartner's *Glory Road*. It is expected to give useful information about the movie analyzed by Marxist perspective.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the movie and how to use literary theory in analyzing the movie.

## **G. Research Method**

The methods that will be used in the research are:

### **1. Type of the Research**

This research applies qualitative research.

### **2. Type of the Data and the Data Source**



#### **a. Type of the Data**

Type of the data in this research is movie script and images.

#### **b. Data Source**

In doing this study, the researcher uses two sources of data; there are Primary Data, which will be taken from the movie itself; James Gartner's *Glory Road*, and Secondary Data, which are taken from other sources, related to the primary data, such as author's biography, website related to class conflict and many other data related to class conflict and many other data related to this research.

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The data collection will be note-taking and image-capturing. There will be some techniques of data collection as follows:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly and carefully.
- b. Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Searching the important dialogues in the movie script.

### **4. Technique of the Data Analysis**

Technique of data analysis in this study is using the descriptive analysis, by using Marxist approach.

## **H. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction, which explains the background of the study, literature review,

problem statement, research limitation, and objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory; consisting of the notion of Marxism, Marxist principles, structural elements, and theoretical application. The third chapter is American society at the turn of the twenty-first century; it deals with social, economical, political, cultural, religious, science and technological aspects. The fourth chapter is the structural analysis. The fourth chapter is the structural analysis. The researcher describes the structural elements of the movie *Glory Road* and discussion. The fifth chapter presents the Marxist analysis and discussion related to the problem of the movie. Finally, the sixth chapter is the last one, integrating the overall discussion, and bringing it to the conclusion of the study and also the suggestion of the researcher.